

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3, 5, 9, 11, 13, 15 and 17 are now pending in the application. The amendments to the claims contained herein are of equivalent scope as originally filed and, thus, are not a narrowing amendment. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-6 and 11-19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Sandbach (U.S. Pat. No. 6,369,804). This rejection is respectfully traversed, in view of the amendment to incorporate allowable subject matter as discussed next below.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

The Examiner states that claims 7-10 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claim 7 has been cancelled. In addition, claims 2, 4, 6, 10, 12, 16, and 18-20 have also been cancelled.

Accordingly, in view of this amendment, it is submitted that claim 1 as well as all remaining claims should now be in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests

that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action and the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

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